



Sheffield TIMES

Community News for Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA SECOND GENERATION Vol. III, Issue 2 November/December 2003



Teachers, administration, paraprofessionals, parents and students are all pitching in to make up for the cuts in state funding at Mt. Everett Regional High School, Undermountain Elementary and other schools in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District.

to obtain grant money, which allows for the continuation of existing programs and the development of new ones even with the current financial strictures:

Leadership. A grant from Safe and Drug Free Schools will take "the current pervasive atmosphere of civility encouraged at the school to a new level of leadership skills," says DeVoti. Through small group discussions, student leaders will be identified to further develop their leadership skills, help make the

Continued on page 3

SCHOOL DISTRICT RISES ABOVE BUDGET CUTS

The new school year at the Southern Berkshire Regional School District has begun with feelings of excitement and pride in both students and teaching staff. With Valerie Spriggs as the new superintendent and Thomas Nadolny as the new principal of Undermountain Elementary School (see page 3 for more details), there is a determination to move forward and meet challenges such as those presented by this year's state funding cuts.

The restoration of some monies by the state has resulted in fewer teacher and paraprofessional reductions than originally anticipated. Still, creative solutions are required to meet student needs and to maintain a strong teacher-student ratio in the classroom within the reduced budget.

Twenty-five of the 61 juniors and seniors who have enrolled in the internship program as an elective have chosen placements within the school community, which helps fill in for lost staff. Two will be working as administrative assistants and 23 will be working as teacher aides, 13 at the elementary school and 10 at Mt. Everett High School. One senior

who comes from Venezuela will be working with grade 3 students in the elementary school's Spanish Language Program, helping to restore this once-cut program. Other placements will continue in the community, including internships in nursing and emergency services, construction, carpentry, business, food services, and physical education.

New projects and programs at Mt. Everett High School

Glenn DeVoti, principal of Mt. Everett, believes that the impact of the budget cuts will be contained by the strong cooperative spirit at the school and support by parents and the community. Parents and teachers are responding with increased time and resources to meet the demands resulting from the reduction in paraprofessional staff, decreased supplies and materials in the classrooms and cutbacks in funding for professional development. DeVoti is proud of the "incredibly talented and committed teaching staff" and "the concerted community effort to keep the school strong."

Fortunately, the school continues

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current student government more effective and prepare themselves for leadership roles in later community involvements.

Paper and plays. Grants from the Eagle Fund and Janet's Fund will support student production of a new school newspaper, *The Eagle Flyer*, to be published quarterly under the guidance of Bob Law, Performing Arts Department coordinator and community relations liaison (for more on Law see p. 10). In addition, grants will continue to support the extensive fundraising done by the Friends of the Arts so that three musicals and two dramas will be performed this year. Barrington Stage will continue to underwrite the Playwright Mentoring Program.

Aquaponics. The Toshiba America Foundation, the Eagle Fund and Sheffield Plastics will support the expansion of the Aquaponics program developed by science teacher Scott Farrell. A new 1,000-square-foot building with 2,500-gallon water tanks and filters for fish farming will supplement the new greenhouse in which basil, lettuces and other greens will be fertilized by fish waste and grown for use in the developing culinary arts program and in school scientific research. Another grant supports the assignment of a Sheffield police officer to the campus to work with the school safety committee on safety and security.

Pathways for the Future. In development now for the 2004-05 academic year is a program called the Pathways for the Future. In this program, the interests and skills of each student will be identified and an individualized pathway created so that at graduation each student will be strongly positioned to move ahead in whatever academic or vocational direction he or she chooses. As explained by Adele Sands-Berking, an English teacher and administrative assistant for professional development, a student with an interest in theater might

focus in required English classes on Shakespeare and other dramatists, include acting and directing classes as electives, and develop computer and technical skills related to drama. Mt. Everett offerings could be supplemented with classes at Berkshire Community College or other colleges in the area to strengthen the student's application to his or her school of choice. According to Sands-Berking, this is a challenge in a small school that is also facing budget cuts, but Mt. Everett is "a creative school committed to meeting the individual needs of its students. Our teachers have many interests and talents and will serve as strong mentors and role models in the program."

New principal at Undermountain

Born and raised in Pittsfield and serving most recently as vice-principal at the Lee Elementary School, Tom Nadolny knows the Berkshires well. He accepted the job as principal of Undermountain because of its reputation as a school with "a wonderful teaching staff and incredible community support." He has found "a family atmosphere" where "the kids respect the school as a second home." He describes the parents as "incredibly involved," supporting an active Parent-Teacher Organization, open houses, field trips and after-school events sponsored by the Flying Cloud Institute of New Marlboro.

Nadolny is particularly pleased that small class sizes have been maintained despite the budget cuts. Over half of the paraprofessional positions that were originally cut have now been restored. The 500-plus children from pre-K to grade 6 at Undermountain will continue to be grouped in classes of 17 to 21 students, with one class of 22. One class combines second and third graders because there is such a large second grade and a much smaller third grade this year.

Nadolny hopes to visit all class-

rooms at Undermountain and the three satellite schools (New Marlborough, South Egremont and Monterey) in order to develop a close working relationship with the students and teachers. Other initiatives he'd like to see include:

School-community involvement. Nadolny would like to see the elementary school more involved in the community. Working with a committee, that consists of seven parents, six teachers, one community representative and one School Committee representative, he will explore possibilities for the periodic display of student art work and student writing in the town library and perhaps at Dewey Hall. He would also like to see an elementary science fair with community participation held at a central location in town.

Integrating the curriculum. This year there will be increased efforts to integrate the curriculum at the Undermountain School with that at Mt. Everett. A number of teachers from the high school will participate in elementary teaching. For example, Richard Kuzia, current head of the Math Department at the high school, will teach sixth grade math and Scott Farrell, Mt. Everett science teacher, has been named Teacher Leader for Elementary School Science. Farrell says, "We will build bridges between the elementary and high school curriculum to help produce strong science students for the high school level. In addition, some high school science students may help teach in the elementary school." A writing program will be coordinated by the sixth-to-eighth-grade teachers to promote continuity in writing skills as elementary students make the transition to Mt. Everett.

According to Spriggs, "The Southern Berkshire Regional School District community can be very proud of their students' continued educational success."

—Ellen Rowntree

SHEFFIELD ADDS TO BERKSHIRE SCHOOL STAFF

Brenda Van Deusen, Berkshire's Chinese language teacher, joined the Berkshire School faculty in August. She is no stranger, however, to the Berkshires. A native of Sheffield, she attended both Berkshire and Simon's Rock College before graduating from Hamilton College with a B.A. in East Asian Studies. She is currently pursuing her master's degree in Chinese at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Aside from teaching at Berkshire, Van Deusen is a dorm parent in Allen Dormitory and the faculty supervisor for Berkshire's literary magazine, *The Dome*.

Another Sheffield resident new on staff this year is Cynthia Eustice, assistant director of counseling. Eustice has also served as a counselor at Simon's Rock College and at the DeSisto School. She has a B.A. in languages and literature from Marlboro College and an M.A. in counseling psychology from Antioch New England Graduate School.

Van Deusen and Eustice join an already sizable contingent of

Sheffield natives who are employed by Berkshire School. They include: Tim Brooks, director of grounds and maintenance; Bill Gulotta, history teacher; Patti Watson, secretary to the assistant head of school for alumni and development; Martha (Shuts) Williamson, bookstore manager; and Judy (Boardman) Ullrich, assistant bookstore manager and student bank supervisor.

Several other Berkshire faculty and staff members make Sheffield their home, including English department chair Hilary Russell, math teacher Don Freedman, director of the physical plant Tim Fulco, science teacher Peter Kinne, registrar Lynn Kinne, as well as many faculty and staff members who live on the Berkshire campus.

Other new faculty and staff

Many new faculty members in addition to Van Deusen have moved into on-campus residences this year, including:

Peter Parisi, director of student life. Parisi, who also holds the school's Shotwell Chair for Leadership and Character Development, was formerly associate head of school and head of the upper school at Albany Academy. He earned a B.A. in history from Union College and an M.S. in Educational Administration from The College of Saint

In Memory of Larry Piatelli

The 13th Head of Berkshire School,
and destined to be among its best

Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.

—*"Nothing Gold Can Stay"*
by Robert Frost

Rose, and was a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army from 1979 to 1987. Mr. Parisi and his wife, Emily, have two children.

Ken Coard, mathematics. A member of Berkshire's Class of 1985, Coard is also house head of Stanley Dormitory, and will coach boys' varsity basketball and track. Coard was formerly a math teacher at Bronx (New York) High School and acting dean of students and assistant principal at Arturo Toscanini Junior High School, also in New York City. He holds a B.S. in industrial marketing and management from Clarkson College and an M.S. in administration and supervision from Mercy University. Coard and his wife, June, are expecting their first child.

Matt Donahue, English. With 12 years of teaching experience,

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Donahue comes to Berkshire from the National Sports Academy and the Northwood School in Lake Placid, New York. He has also been dean of faculty, head of college guidance, and head of English and art departments. He holds a B.A. in Literary Writing from Trinity College and an M.A. in Liberal Studies from Duke University. Donahue and his wife, Angela, live in Eipper Dormitory, where they are a dorm parents.

Evan Glasson, English. A graduate of Saint Anselm College, where he earned a B.A. in English, Glasson will also coach basketball and baseball.

Whitney Gray, dance. A resident of West Stockbridge, Gray has a B.F.A. in dance and has studied ballet, modern, jazz, and composition. She trained in the Cecchetti Method of classical ballet under the guidance of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing.

Alex Moody, math. Head coach of the boys' varsity hockey team and house head of Buck Dormitory, Moody holds a B.A. in Government from Colby College and has taught at Brooks School for the past four years. He is also founder and director of the Junior High Festival for Hockey Night in Boston.

Kristin Moody, English. The spouse of Alex Moody and a former English teacher at Nashoba Brooks School, Moody is also a college counselor. She earned a B.A. in English at Colby College and an M.Ed. at Lesley College, and is currently enrolled in the Masters

program in Literature at Bread Loaf School of English at Middlebury College. She and her husband have two children.

Grant Bagnardi, assistant dean of students. With over two decades' experience teaching and facilitating experiential adventure-based learning methods, Bagnardi holds a B.S.E. from State University of New York at Cortland and is pursuing his master's degree.

Tracie Bellerose, assistant athletic trainer. Formerly head athletic trainer at Griswold High School and Woodstock Academy and a physical therapy aide for Eastern Connecticut Rehabilitation Centers, Bellerose holds a B.S. in physical education. She is a house parent in Spurr Dormitory.

Kevin Lydon, associate director of admission. Lydon has taught algebra and coached soccer, lacrosse, and hockey at the Landmark School and Cardigan Mountain School. He holds a B.S. in finance and a B.S. in business management from Northeastern University. He and his wife, Amy, live on campus.

Titus Stewart, assistant director of admission. A member of Berkshire's Class of 1989, Stewart has worked as a substance abuse counselor at a Brooklyn, N.Y., hospital and as case manager for a not-for-profit child and family service agency. He holds a B.A. from the State University of New York at Old Westbury and is a house parent in Eipper Dormitory. Stewart will coach varsity baseball in the spring.

Several staff members have new

assignments. Phillip J. Jarvis, who served as interim head of school last year, has returned to his previous position as assistant head of school for enrollment. Jarvis and his family live in Dixon House, across Undermountain Rd. from campus. Dean Charpentier, who taught English at Berkshire for the past five years, is now the school's dean of students. Science teacher Peter Quilty has been named dean of the fourth form (sophomores), English teacher Linda Bellizzi dean of the fifth form (juniors) and English teacher A.J. Kohlhepp dean of the sixth form (seniors). All three will continue their teaching duties.

Al Bredenfoerder and David Sanborn are the new co-chairs of the mathematics department, while Jean Erick Joassaint is the new chair of the language department. Marc Wysocki has been promoted to head athletic trainer.

In other Berkshire School news, the Trustees announced that they hope to appoint an interim successor to the late Head of School Larry Piatelli by early December. Piatelli, who had become Berkshire's Head of School on July 1, died suddenly of heart failure on October 19 at the age of 51.

—Dana Currier, Assistant Director of Communications, Berkshire School



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TOWN TREE-LIGHTING FESTIVITIES

Saturday, Dec. 6, is the date for the annual holiday festivities in Ashley Falls. Hay rides start at 4pm, with the handsome draft horses from Split Rail Ranch taking kids of all ages on wagon rides around the center of the village. At 5, the community will gather on the green for the lighting of the 70-foot Norway spruce, followed by music of the season. After the tree lighting, the wagon rides will resume. Hot cocoa and homemade cookies will be available throughout the event, which will take place rain (or snow) or shine. Everything is free, and everyone is urged to join in. Donations are gratefully accepted and may be sent to the Ashley Falls Tree Fund, P.O. Box 6, Ashley Falls, MA 01222.

The next day, Sunday, Dec. 7., the tree on the Sheffield Green between the Old Stone Store and the Old Parish Church will be lit at 6pm. The Mt. Everett High School band, under the direction of Eric Blackburn, will be on hand to play carols. After the lighting, everyone is invited to warm up in the Old Parish Church with more carols and refreshments. All are welcome to this holiday festival—although held in conjunction with area churches, it's non-denominational.

Churches & Services

ASHLEY FALLS

Grace Bible (non-denominational)
355 Clayton Road (413) 229-8560;
parsonage
(860) 824-7442. Sunday: 9:30am
Sunday School (ages 3-adult);
10:30am Worship Service, nursery
care provided; Rev. Edward M.
Eastman Jr., Pastor

Trinity Methodist (United
Methodist)
1156 Ashley Falls Road (413) 229-
2712. Sunday: 9am Service.
Pastor Betty LeGeyt

GREAT BARRINGTON

Congregation Ahavath Shalom
(reconstructionist)
North Street (413) 528-4197
Friday, 8pm & Saturday, 10am.
Services are not held every week.
Schedules are updated weekly on
the answering machine, including
special services.

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire
270 State Road (413) 528-6378
Friday: 7:30pm Shabbat Service;
Saturday: 10am Shabbat service &
Torah study. Rabbi Deborah
Zecher, As't Rabbi Andrew Klein

Trinity Lutheran
St. James 352 Main Street (413)
528-1330. Sunday: 9:30am Sunday
Worship. Rev. George E. Mayer

**Unitarian Universalist Meeting of
South Berkshire**
Meet at the United Methodist
Church, 198 Main Street
(413) 528-4850; home (413) 528-
3106.
Sunday: 5pm. Rev. Kathy Duhon

SHEFFIELD

Christ Church (Episcopal)
180 Main Street (413) 229-8811
Sunday: 8am & 10am Holy
Eucharist; 10am Sunday School &
childcare; Thursday: 10am Holy
Eucharist & Healing. Rev. Susan H.
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**Congregation of Jehovah's
Witnesses**
Rte 7 & Kellogg Road (413) 229-
8649.
The public is welcome.

Faith Baptist
640 North Main Street (413) 229-
0400 Sunday: 9:45am Sunday
School; 10:45am Worship Service;
6pm Bible Study; Wednesday: 7pm
Mid-week Service; Pastor L.V.
Morris.

Old Parish (United Church of
Christ)
125 Main Street (413) 229-8173
Sunday: 10am Worship. Rev. Art
Kaufman, Pastor

Our Lady of the Valley (Catholic)
Maple Avenue (413) 229-3028;
Saturday: 5:30pm Mass; Sunday:
Sheffield 7:30am, 9am Masses; Mill
River 10:30 Mass. Rev. John S. Lis

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CHURCH NEWS

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

There will be an interfaith community Thanksgiving service on Nov. 23 at 3pm at St. James Episcopal Church in Great Barrington.

CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL

Holiday Services. The Thanksgiving Day service will be at 10am, Rev. Ray W. Wilson, celebrant.

The Children's Christmas Pageant will be at 4pm on Sat., Dec. 20. Refreshments will be served after the service in the Great Hall.

Sun., Dec. 21, Holy Eucharist is at 8am and the Children's Christmas Pageant at 10 am.

Christmas Eve, Festival Choral Eucharist will be at 5 & 10pm, with choirs and soloists to be announced.

OLD PARISH CHURCH

Pot luck supper. At Old Parish on Nov. 9, come and order "gifts that give twice," eat and be entertained. The pot luck supper begins at 5:30.

Christmas Eve services. A

family service of stories and carols will be held at 5:30pm on Dec. 24. A service of carols and candles will be held at 11pm.

OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY

Christmas bazaar. Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Women's Club's annual Christmas bazaar will be Sat., Nov. 22, 9:30am to noon, in the Parish Hall. The event features baked goods and boutique tables, hand-decorated wreathes and refreshments. Tickets will be sold for two raffles, one courtesy of donations from local merchants and one for handcrafted items, including a doll-house, donated by Mrs. Jean Adams.

HOLIDAY CONCERTS SET

The annual S. Berkshire Regional School District Holiday Concerts will be held at the Consolati Performing Arts Center at Mt. Everett Regional School. The Grade 5-8 Band performs Dec. 9 at 7pm and the middle, high school and jazz bands perform Dec. 18 at 7pm.

BROADBAND UPDATE

Broadband computer access is now available in parts of Sheffield through the DSL technology, which uses phone lines to broaden the "band" for computer connections and thus increase their speed. Mike Pequinot, spokesperson for Verizon, said service became available as of September 1 for those close enough to the Verizon switching station in the center of town for the technology to work. "People who can get DSL should have been notified with an insert in their bill," he told the *Sheffield Times*.

People farther away from the town center will have to wait for cable modems to be available through Adelphia. According to Mary Sevey, general manager for the North Adams and Lee area, that should be very soon. "We're waiting on some equipment," she said in late October, adding that cable modem availability should be coming in the next few weeks for Great Barrington and Sheffield.

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MILL POND REST ORED

Many of us brought up on TV's "Gentle Ben" of the '70s will remember the airboat that skimmed across the waters of the Everglades narrowly avoiding alligators and hidden stumps. When an airboat appeared this summer on Mill Pond, the lake off Bow Wow Road in the center of Sheffield, the concern was not alligators but non-native invasive weeds.

Over the years, Eurasian water milfoil, water chestnut, and phragmites, exotic weeds seen in many New England ponds, had infested Mill Pond to the extent that residents were concerned it would revert to its original state—a narrow stream meandering through wetlands on its way to the Housatonic.

Mill Pond has a rich history in Sheffield. If Sheffield "began" in 1733, Mill Pond followed shortly thereafter, in 1735, when the first dam and mill were constructed, for the manufacture of paper. Over the years the dam and the land around it housed a gristmill and a sawmill and at one time vinegar and cider brandy and rye whiskey were made. If Mill Pond were "lost," Sheffield would also have lost a place of memory and beauty.

The airboat belongs to Aquatic Control Technology, a firm based in Sutton, Mass., that specializes in lake restoration. A group called the Mill Pond Association,



Mill Pond received its first herbicide treatment this year to combat the invasive weeds that were taking over the pond. Careful observers may have noticed the airboat used by the consultants hired to help with pond restoration efforts.

consisting of the 24 property owners that abut the pond, hired ACT to spray an environmentally safe herbicide over the Pond's almost 100 acres. The Association was formed in the late summer 2002, when the infestation was so bad residents considered "walking across the water" rather than attempting it with a canoe.

The journey leading to ACT's airboat was not an easy one and involved infinite patience. Although the land under and surrounding the pond and the dam itself are privately owned, the water is subject to state regulation. Guided by the Sheffield Conservation Commission and ACT, the Association negotiated the necessary permitting process with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the Division of Fish and Wildlife. At the same time property owners raised the considerable funds necessary to bring the project to its conclusion.

The satisfying result can be seen from Bow Wow Rd. or Cook Rd. where it crosses Hubbard Brook just below the dam. Canoes and kayaks once again are common on the water, and the pond teems with wildlife. This fall migrating Canada geese have been abundant, and a great blue heron watches expectantly along the banks.

The Association understands, however, that while a battle has been won, the war has not. Aquatic weeds like crabgrass and milfoil require constant attention or they will re-emerge. The Mill Pond Association, like a lot of other northeastern lake and pond communities, is searching for a "permanent" cure. Meanwhile, they are ready to welcome a return visit by the airboat next year.

—John G. Wightman

Dinner in 4 Minutes!

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TWO SHEFFIELD 4-H-ers ARE BIG WINNERS AT THE BIG E

Two Sheffield residents recently won prizes for showing their animals at the Eastern States Exposition (the "Big E"), in late September.

Champion Nubian. Emerson Martin, a 14-year-old freshman at Mt. Everett High School, was the first delegate from Berkshire County to show dairy goats at the Big E. He and his goat, Ameka, a two-year-old purebred Nubian, won first place in showmanship for all of New England. Emerson was awarded rosette ribbons and a trophy for Senior Champion (2-3 year-old milkers), Grand Champion (all senior does), and Best of Breed. Emerson stayed at the fair grounds, fitted his goat for showing, milked twice a day for dairy herd testing, and took a written exam testing his knowledge of dairy goats and their management.

Emerson and his family have a small hobby farm on Hulett Hill Rd. in Sheffield and have been milking and showing goats for 10 years. They have nine goats overall and will be milking seven next spring. Emerson, a member of the Sheffield Whinnies 4-H Club, plans to go to the National Dairy Goat Show in Harrisburg, PA, in July 2004. His sisters Lindie, 12, and Charlotte, 10, also show goats and plan to follow in their brother's footsteps at the Big E someday.

Champion Holstein. Sheri Boardman, also a 14-year-old freshman at Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village, CT, won Reserve Grand Champion in her showmanship class at the Big E.

Winner one of eight Junior Showmanship classes, she was judged on the cleanliness of her cow Kerin, its grooming, how well it was trained to stop and move on command, and her ability to show the animal with ease and comfort. Sheri then competed in the championship runoff and was named Reserve Grand Showman for all New England.

Sheri, daughter of Sandy and Rick Boardman, has been showing registered Holsteins since she was two years old. Currently the owner of four cows, she is an active part of Carlwood Farm in Canaan, CT, a family dairy farm owned by her grandparents, Doug and Cris Carlson. Sheri is an active member of Busy Farmers 4-H Club.



Sheri Boardman with her champion Holstein, Kerin, at the Big E.

SHEFFIELD FOOD PROGRAM

Every Monday morning volunteers from our community gather at Old Parish Church to distribute food to individuals and families who, for a variety of reasons, just can't "do it all." Food is donated from area churches and businesses (Big Y, Price Chopper, etc.) and bought from donated funds.

If you, or someone you know, is in need of food assistance, call the church office (229-8173) or stop in on Mondays from 9:30-10:30.

And don't forget, there is a drop-off barrel for non-perishable food items inside the Sheffield Branch of Berkshire Bank, so you can make a contribution any time the bank is open.



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BOB LAW RECOGNIZED AS A MAN WITH A VISION

The Peace Awards are given each year by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health through its Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Project. This year, seven awards were presented Sept. 29 at the Pittsfield Library. The Visionary Award, which recognizes a teacher who has promoted nonviolence or healthy conflict resolution in his/her class, was presented to Bob Law, teacher at Mt. Everett High School for more than 10 years.

Bob was the first teacher in the state to receive this award. That says a lot, not only about this very talented and dedicated individual but also about the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, Bob's employer.

But let me tell you more about Bob. His official title is "Community Relations Liaison and Performing Arts Coordinator." The title might suggest a CEO-type sitting behind a mahogany desk in a spacious office shielded from interruptions by his personal secretary. Bob is anything but. He rarely if ever wears a suit, no less a tie, and his office is a windowless two by four located just inside the main entrance to the school. Students and staff pop in unannounced just to "check in" and Bob frequently calls in a student or staff person

as they pass by to see how they're doing, to remind them that rehearsal is today or just to tell them how good they were at yesterday's rehearsal. Spend just a few minutes with him and you get a sense of how much he cares about the students, his colleagues, his job and our school.

Most of all, he cares about the role the arts play in helping young people, in his words, "discover their creative side, develop confidence in themselves, poise, and skills that will last for a lifetime." Apparently the young people Bob works with agree. Last year 60 percent of the student body from grades 3-12 were involved in at least one of the five performances put on under his tutelage. Some performed in four out of five! And they do it all: costumes, set design, lighting, soundboard and, of course, acting.

More importantly, Bob says they learn about themselves and each other. Bob deliberately chooses plays that help them learn how to deal with real-life issues like suicide, relationships, death and dying. And they learn how to have fun singing their hearts out in musicals like "Cabaret" (this February) and "Fiddler on the Roof" (May).

Even though Bob won't say it (he's way too humble), students learn that there are some adults (like Bob) who really, really care about them and will do anything to make sure they know they are valued and loved just as they are! Bob points to two people in his life who nurtured this passion for people and the arts in him: his mother, who introduced him to the arts, and his friend and colleague Nancy Loder.

Bob's greatest fear? That something might happen to him that would prevent him from continuing to work with "his kids." Bob Law is truly a visionary and a gift to all of us.

—Art Kaufman

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RIVER INVITATION

Housatonic River Restoration invites people of Berkshire County to share what they see for the river's future at a series of meetings in October and November. The public participation will help guide the agencies charged with river restoration following the settlement between the General Electric Company and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to remedy years of PCB pollution.

November meeting dates are: Wed., Nov. 12, 7-9pm, at Berkshire South Community Center on Crissey Rd. in Great Barrington and Thurs., Nov. 20, 7-9pm, at Hinsdale Town Hall Community Room on South St. in Hinsdale.

"It is important that everyone be heard," says Rachel Fletcher, Housatonic River Restoration's executive director, not just about restoring the river but also about recreational opportunities and ways to link the river with communities along its way. Information at www.restorehousatonic.com.

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SENIOR CENTER NEWS

Senior Center trip. A trip to Boston is being planned for Tues., Nov. 18. Participants will visit the John F. Kennedy Library in the soaring I. M. Pei building overlooking Boston Harbor, where film and tape recordings, photographs, letters, and hundreds of objects, including JFK's desk and sailboat, document his life with dramatic, life-like exhibits. Currently the special exhibit is Caroline's doll collection: dolls and puppets from all over the world given to her as a child in the White House. Lunch will be at the renowned Phillips Old Colony House, very English in atmosphere.

The afternoon will be spent at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, a turn-of-the-century mansion built in the style of a 15th century Italian palace. An interior courtyard

filled with plants and flowers and a house filled with artistic treasures make up one of the unique museums of the art world.

The trip will leave Dewey Hall at 7:45am and return at 6:30pm. Cost: \$61 (in advance). Call the Senior Center at 229-7022 for reservations.

Prescription drug program saved. State Representative William "Smitty" Pignatelli has the gratitude of Berkshire seniors for his part in saving Prescription Advantage and other programs for the elderly, which were scheduled for the chopping block during the recent state budget hearings. Thanks also to State Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, and others in the legislature; to advocates mobilized by Elder Services of Berkshire County and just plain vociferous citizens. The funding was reinstated, proving that advocacy works.

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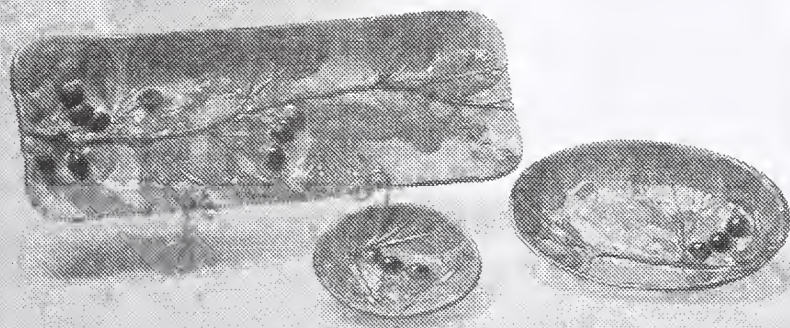
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played before the performance of
a composition **2:** the fieldstone walk
that leads to marble steps

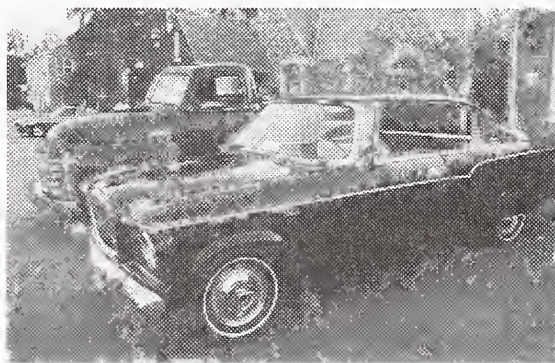
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Sheffield Fair 2003

The Sheffield Fair, part of *Sheffield in Celebration* with the Art Show at the Library, the Heavenly Quilt Show and the Farmers' Market, was held on the village green. The kids activities were a great success, with the lines for the climbing wall and face painting going around the corner and the pony rides and hay ride ran an hour longer than planned to accomo-

date all those waiting. The new Food Court was packed, and the Kiwanis made sure taht the parking went smoothly. The classic and muscle cars were back again for the third

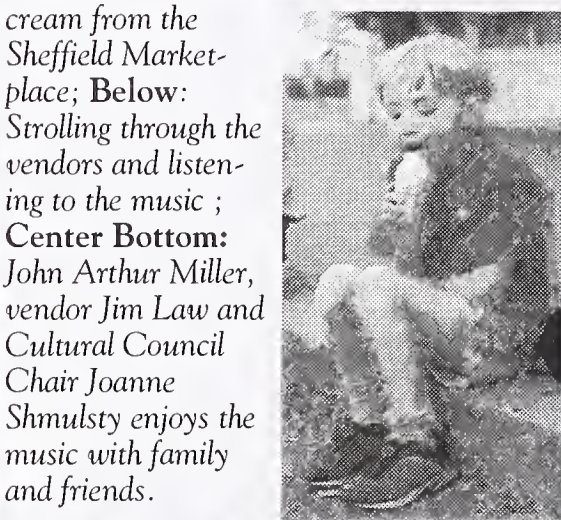
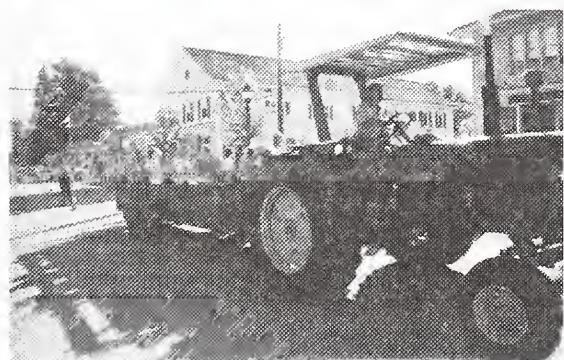
year as were many of the vendors - local craftsmen and cottage industries, and Silks and the Market opened up onto the sidewalk. Kids and parents were thrilled to explore the engines on display at the Fire Department and enjoy the music and Glory B clowns. The Master Plan booth was open for people to review and comment on maps and reports.



Center top: Classic cars in front of Dewey Hall; **Above:** Olympia Cassivant's face painting was a hit; **Right:** Senior Center Salad Bar; **Left:** Selectman Stanton peruses Claudia Ziobro's handmade saches; **Right:** Boyd Hutchinson demonstrates the process of crafting fine boxes; **Left:** Examining maps at the Master Plan Booth; **Below:** Jim Wolfe drives a full hayride through the festivities on the Village Green.



Above: Local favorite and MC Tom Ingersoll jams with folk duo Yankee Notions, underwritten by the Sheffield Cultural Council; **Right:** Kids were all smiles steering the fire engine wearing their pint sized fire hats; **Right:** Kristin Wolfe enjoys an ice cream from the Sheffield Marketplace; **Below:** Strolling through the vendors and listening to the music; **Center Bottom:** John Arthur Miller, vendor Jim Law and Cultural Council Chair Joanne Shmulsty enjoys the music with family and friends.



THANK YOU!

To everyone who contributed this year and during our spring campaign to help keep the Sheffield Times going! To anyone we missed, we'll get you into the next issue. For those who still want to give, there is a contribution slip on the last page of each issue and the fall campaign will begin soon.

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ASSESSORS

Revaluations available for review. The Sheffield Board of Assessors, as mandated by the Commonwealth, has received preliminary certification for the triennial revaluation of all real and personal property in town. The new valuations are based on extensive market analysis, subject to final certification by the state Department of Revenue.

A listing of all properties in the town with old and new valuations is available for inspection Oct. 27 through Nov. 7 in the assessor's office in Town Hall and at the Bushnell-Sage Memorial Library. Or you can arrange an appointment by contacting the Assessor's office at 413-229-7001.

Real estate tax exemptions. The Assessors have sent out exemption forms to those seniors age 70 years or older, veterans and blind who received them last year. The Assessors request that the forms be returned to their office as soon as possible.

Please contact the Assessors office at the above number if you have questions about qualifications for an exemption.

TRANSFER STATION HOURS
Tuesdays and Fridays: 1pm-4pm,
Saturdays: 8am-4pm;
Sundays: 8:30am-2pm

TRANSFER STATION

Cellular phone recycling. Starting in early Nov., there is a new recycling program at the Sheffield Transfer Station. Any brand of cell phone and Motorola brand pagers will be collected and shipped out for reconditioning and re-use.

See the Transfer Station attendant for details, or call recycling coordinator David Steindler at 413-229-2628.

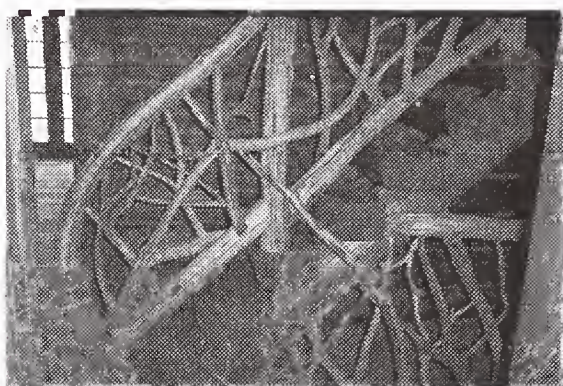
COLLECTORS

Actual tax bills will be sent out in December for the February and May 2004 payments.

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See page 27.

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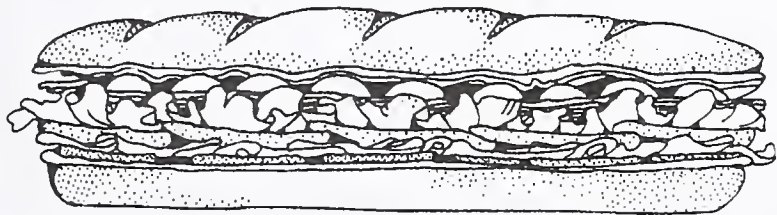
SHEFFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE LOG

—Rick Boardman, Chief

- 8/18—Car accident. Alarm time 3:05pm. In service 3:54pm.
8/19—Alarm Sheffield Plastics. Alarm time 10:43am. In service 10:53am.
8/22—Alarm Bachetti's Auto. Alarm time 4:40am. In service 5:15am.
8/23—stand by in station for New Marlboro FD. Structure fire. Alarm time 12:30am. In service 12:45am.
8/26—Car accident. Alarm time 2:08pm. In service 2:20pm.
8/28—Injured hiker in Mt. Washington. Alarm time 3:15pm. In service 7:16pm.
8/31—Car fire. Alarm time 8:20am. In service 9:07am.
9/2—Dryer fire. Alarm time 4:45pm. In service 6:10pm.
9/12—Electrical fire. Alarm time 12:00am. In service 1:35am.
9/27—Lost hiker at Race Brook. Alarm time 8:00pm. In service 8:30pm.
9/28—Tree down on wires. Alarm time 1:30pm. In service 2:00pm.
10/1—Alarm Sheffield Plastics. Alarm time 4:42pm. In service 5:00pm.
10/4—Car accident. Alarm time 6:35pm. In service 7:50pm.
10/9—Lost hiker. Alarm time 7:50pm. In service 9:26pm.
10/10—Alarm Sheffield Plastics. Alarm time 9:40am. In service 9:50am.
10/12—Alarm Sheffield Plastics. Alarm time 6:50am. In service 7:10am.

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TOWN CLERK

Voter registration & absentee ballots. 2004 is an election year and those who are eligible are encouraged to stop in and register to vote with the Town Clerk. College students home for the holidays may also want to see the Town Clerk about absentee ballot requests.

FALL HUNTING SEASON

Written permission is required to hunt on someone else's property in Sheffield. Special Permits are needed for antlerless deer.

Partial Fall Hunting Season Guide

Pheasant: 10/18-11/29

Turkey: 10/27-11/1

Deer (archery): 10/13-11/22

Deer (shotgun): 12/1-12/13

Deer (primitive firearms): 12/15-12/31

All hunting seasons except waterfowl are closed during deer shotgun season. Details and seasons for other species are listed in the 2003 *MassWildlife Abstracts* available from the Town Clerk. The *Abstracts* also list bag limits and rules specific to each species and season and general hunting information and regulations. Sheffield is in deer Zone 3.

Hours: Hunting hours are generally from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. There are some exceptions, which are noted in the *Abstracts*. Hunting is not permitted on Sundays.

Safety: During deer shotgun season, all hunters must wear "a minimum of 500 square inches of 'hunter orange' on their head, chest and back." Deer hunters must wear the same during muzzleloader season as well.

All non-hunters engaged in outdoor recreational activities are advised to follow the same guidelines. All hunting injuries must be reported to state or local police.

Hunting is not permitted within 500 feet of any dwelling or building, except as authorized by the owner or occupant, nor within 150 feet of any state or hard-surfaced highway. No firearm or arrow may be discharged on or across such highways.

For more information call the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Western Wildlife District Offices at (413) 447-9789 or visit their web site at www.masswildlife.org.

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN: EXCERPTS FROM MEETING MINUTES

A backlog of minutes were completed since the last issue of the Sheffield Times. Some of the major topics covered here, including the approval of the Kradel gravel excavation permit and the passage of the new smoking laws, were covered in previous issues.

6/2—The public hearing on the Kradel excavation permit continued. [See 6/16 below, the July/August issue of the Sheffield Times or the Town Clerk for more on approval of the permit.]

Clark and Green, architects of Great Barrington, were hired for Phase 1 of the site design for the proposed new Senior Center.

A curb cut was approved for Patrice Dean on Berkshire School Rd., pending approval by the Chief of Police. Francis "Doc" Nourse was appointed as alternate member of the Planning Board, and John James as a Finance Committee member.

6/9—The Board approved a motion to increase the terms of police officers Susan Rathbun and Nicholas DeSantis from one to three years.

A working session was held on the Kradel excavation permit.

6/16—The Kradel permit was approved with conditions [see the July/August issue for a transcript of the conditions] and a \$35,143 performance bond, to be reviewed annually.

A conservation restriction was approved on Robert and Susan MacVeety's property located between Kelsey and Foley Rds. The restriction provides for the possibility of one guesthouse and one additional house. The land will remain under its current Chapter 61B (wildlife and recreation) assessment triggering no change in the real-estate taxes.

The board also approved the

appointments of Nancy Simonds-Ruderman as Health Inspector and Lisa Meyer as Temporary Treasurer/Collector's Office Clerk. Berkshire Stage Co. was granted four one-day alcoholic licenses for dates in June and July.

6/23—The Selectmen accepted a bid from Tyler Equipment Corp. for a Volvo front-end loader for a net of \$75,348 with a trade-in. Questions were raised about roadside mowing. Chairman David Macy read a letter from the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission regarding complaints received about The Lantern on Clayton Rd. and the activities during Sunday "pig roasts."

Highway Superintendent Ronnie Bassett requested the paving with oil and stone of East Rd. between County Rd. and Water Farm Rd. and Water Farm Rd. between East Rd. and Boardman St., as well as 50 feet on each side of the intersection of Water Farm and East Rds.

6/25—The Board reviewed a letter from Massachusetts Highway Dept. notifying the Board that it was considering removing the bridge over Schenob Brook on Kelsey Rd. The Board decided to send a letter stating they were not in favor of the removal, as it would affect the town's ability to provide emergency response in the area.

Mary Ellen O'Brien was appointed Conservation Commission secretary and Michael James Mitchell a reserve intermittent police officer.

7/7—Jack Pollitt introduced Valerie Spriggs, the new superintendent of Southern Berkshire Regional School, to the Board. He also mentioned that he would like to see the school budgets looked at early and how it would be nice to see the

five towns that make up the district come together and not have so much animosity. The Board agreed.

Marty Clark, the animal control officer discussed an unlicensed pit bull living in Sheffield that bit a child at the Canaan Carnival. The dog is under quarantine until it is licensed. He will investigate a complaint concerning a barking dog on 35 Hulett Hill Rd.

The Board approved the paving discussed on 6/23 of East and Water Farm Rds. Laura Grunfeld commented that she believed everyone was not aware of the paving request and that dirt roads were easier to maintain.

The Board also approved a curb cut for SRF Realty on County Rd., pending approval of the chief of Police, and a one-day alcoholic license for Fairview Hospital for their annual fundraiser.

A junk car complaint regarding four cars was turned over to the Police Dept. Selectman Kirschner questioned the progress of roadside mowing.

7/21—Steve McAllister of Clark & Green was present to discuss the site, floor plan and septic plan of the proposed Senior Center, to be built next to Town Hall. The building would be one level, approximately 3,100 square feet, with handicapped access. The outside of the building would be designed with some characteristics of the building it is replacing. The proposed septic system is an issue, with the septic fields placed next to the barn, leaving room for two cars to pass but not turn around.

McAllister explained he has been working closely with the Senior Center Task Force and Berkshire Housing Development, with input from some residents. The \$600,000 in grant funding is intended for Senior Center use only. The plan is

currently going through the Zoning Board of Appeals because the site is less than the required one-half acre.

Discussion was held about the school budget and the effect of the 1 percent reduction in reimbursement by the state. A suggestion was made that a five-town meeting be scheduled including Sheffield's Finance Committee and representatives from the Southern Berkshire Regional School District.

Eric Carlson, Industrial Development Commission Chairman, was present to discuss the renewal of the Realtor Agreement for Sheffield Business Park off Hewins Street and East Stahl Road with Wheeler & Taylor Realty Co. There was discussion of the cool climate of commercial activity, but there is hope of having some sales activity within the next few years.

Jim McGarry, chief of police, introduced Gregory Priest, a candidate for part-time Reserve Intermittent Police Officer. The Board then appointed Priest to the position. The Board approved a curb cut for Barry and Jean Emberlin on Rote Hill Rd., with conditions.

Chairman Macy asked how roadside mowing was progressing. Town Administrator Bob Weitz said that since the purchase of a mower, the mowing has been progressing.

8/4—Tom Webb of the Berkshire Housing Authority explained some details of the grant and requirements involved in building a new Senior Center. One requirement is a public hearing allowing questions from the community. Another is that the building must be used as a senior center for five years; after that it can be used for other purposes as well. Questions were raised about the septic system and the Fire Dept.'s water supply. The Board indicated that they are planning a site visit. Selectman Janet Stanton mentioned that any questions may be directed to the Board of Selectmen's office or the Senior Center, where the specifications for this plan are on display.

8/18—The Board approved a motion to become co-holder of an Agricultural Preservation Restriction to be placed on 300 to 350 acres owned by Jim Larkin Sr., located at Kellogg Rd., Maple Ave., Route 7, and Egremont Rd.

The Board approved the closing of the center of Sheffield for Sheffield in Celebration on Sept. 6. The contract with Wheeler & Taylor discussed on 7/21 was approved. Brenda Ullrich was appointed a Cultural Council member.

8/25—Highway Superintendent Bassett requested paving (oil and stone) for West Rd. and 1,200 additional feet of Water Farm Rd. The Board requested that the two reporters present at the meeting post this in their newspapers and stated that they like to announce an upgrading of road request when CTSB [public access TV] is present as another way to inform residents. The Board also moved to request that the state place a bridge on Old Joe Rd.

The Board approved Jennifer Bennett as a probationary member of the Fire Dept. The Board also approved a curb cut for Brent Getchell on Silver St., contingent on police approval. It reviewed bids for the 1997 town police cruiser and accepted the high bid of \$1,132 from Police Cars Unlimited of Woodside, NY. Poll workers were discussed, and the Board approved policies about family leave.

9/15—The Board approved the paving of Water Farm and West Rd. pending Town Administrator Weitz checking with the state Dept. of Environmental Protection regarding oil and stoning near a public water source on Water Farm Rd.

David Steindler, Recycling Coordinator, was present to discuss a proposal from RMS Communications to recycle cellular phones and pagers from the Town. The Board moved to pursue the proposal (see related item on page 14).

The Board approved a curb cut for James Fife on Shunpike Rd. and granted permission to Frank and Robert Smith to archery hunt on Town land off Berkshire School Rd.

Selectman Kirchner asked about roadside mowing on County Rd. and whether lines will be painted on the road. Weitz indicated that lines will be painted on major roads only.

9/22—Chief McGarry was present, recommending a meeting with the owner of The Lantern to discuss parking, fencing, the barrier on the property line, the tent, and the number of people. Selectman Stanton mentioned that the Board of Health should also be invited to address a noise complaint. The Building Inspector will be invited to discuss the number of people allowed inside and outside the building.

The Board offered Robert Gilpatrick a position at the Highway Dept.

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LIBRARY NEWS

LOCAL AUTHORS BOOK PARTY

Late last summer, Adam Harris, a patron of the Bushnell-Sage Library in Sheffield, approached Library Director Nancy Hahn with an idea for a display of modern literary figures' favorite works. Why not write a letter to selected authors requesting an autographed picture along with a note indicating that author's favorite book and a comment or two on the title? The Library would then display the author's portraits and comments along with the actual book.

From Adam Harris's inspiration came the idea to use this display as a backdrop for a book-signing party for local authors hosted by the Friends of the Bushnell-Sage Library.

Upwards of 20 local authors have been invited to sell and sign their works on Sat., Nov. 8, from 10am to 2pm at the Library in Sheffield. Over the past two years, the Friends of the Library, enthusiastically encouraged by Nancy Hahn, have made a concerted effort to support local authors by hosting readings and book signings by writers from Berkshire, Litchfield, Dutchess and Columbia counties. The Bookloft in Great Barrington has collaborated with great success in many of these events. Book topics have ranged from natural history to mysteries to

children's interests to political philosophy. There have been lively discussions. More than 80 people came to hear Simon Winchester read from his book, *Krakatoa*; nearly 200 children and parents sang lustily along with Sue MacVeety when she and local illustrator Anne Douglas came to read their book "Helper Cow."

UPCOMING BOOK SIGNINGS

In addition to the book-signing party on Nov. 8, several readings have been scheduled.

Brett Duval Fromson will present "Hitting The Jackpot: The Inside Story Of The Richest Indian Tribe In History," on Nov. 7, at 7pm. Fromson, a writer for *The Street.com*, spent three years researching his account of the Mashantucket Pequots of Connecticut and the casinos they built. Publisher Weekly: "He ably captures the social, political and legal processes expertly finessed by the Pequots in making Foxwoods a reality."

Simon Winchester will read from his new book, "The Meaning Of Everything: The Story Of The Oxford English Dictionary," on Sat., Nov. 15, at 2pm. William F. Buckley in *The New York Times*: "'The Meaning of Everything' tells the story of the Oxford English Dictionary. It is teeming with knowledge

Ashley Falls Village
Improvement Society

FALL MEETING
Fri, Nov. 14, 2003
7:00 PM

Please Participate

and alive with insights. Winchester handles humor and awe with modesty and cunning. His devotion to the story is the more eloquent for the cool-handedness of its telling. His prose is supremely readable, admirable in its lucid handling of lexicographical mire."

Loet Velmans of Sheffield will read from his new book, "Long Way Back To The River Kwai: Memories of World War II," on Sat., Nov. 22, at 2pm. Loet spent 3 1/2 years as one of the POWs building the "Railroad of Death" through the dense jungle on the Burmese-Thailand border, an ordeal during which some 200,000 POWs and slave laborers died. Fifty-seven years later he returned to the place where he should have died and where he had buried his closest friend. From that visit comes this memoir.

Books will be for sale at all programs and the authors will be available to sign them. For more information, call 229-7004.

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A PASSION FOR EMERSON

On Oct. 4, local author Richard Grossman shared his passion for Ralph Waldo Emerson at the Bushnell-Sage Library as he read selections from his new book, "A Year with Emerson." Grossman recalled Emerson's resolve "to keep an honest journal, a farmers' almanac of mental moves." From his lifelong study of the many books and journals of "The Sage of Concord," Grossman has compiled an ample collection of insights and wisdom. "A Year with Emerson" is published by David R. Godine, Boston, and is beautifully illustrated with engravings by local artist Barry Moser.

Grossman, an educator, therapist, and former publisher, has been a student of Emerson's writings for almost 50 years. Emerson was America's first public intellectual and the patron saint of autodidacts. Born on May 25, 1803, he resided for many years until his death in 1883 in Concord, MA, near Walden Pond, close to his friends Henry David Thoreau, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Bronson Alcott.

Emerson was educated at Harvard and for several years was a Unitarian minister. Resigning his pastorate in 1831, Emerson traveled to Europe where he befriended Thomas Carlyle and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, who in their attacks on hypocrisy and materialism and belief in the power of the individual helped Emerson formulate his own philosophy.

Emerson became the chief advocate of Transcendentalism, a reaction against scientific rationalism, which held that everything in our world—even a drop of water—is a microcosm of the universe. His concept of the Over-Soul, a supreme mind that everyone shares in, enabled Transcendentalists to disregard external authority and to rely on direct experience. "Trust thyself" was Emerson's motto. Reliance on intuition became the pathway to comprehending reality as each individual could share in cosmic divinity: "What lies before us and what lies behind us is tiny compared to what lies within us." In reacquainting us with Emerson's thoughtful optimism, Grossman enables us to "reach out for the gifts which Emerson, like a new god on a new day, offers us...."

—Frederic Gordon

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MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Economic Development. Don Ward (229-9023) and Sharon Gregory (229-2717 or sharongregory1@cs.com; Facilities, Services & Transportation. Anna James (229-3096 or arjames@bcn.net); Housing. David West (229-7727). Open Space, Recreation & Land Use; Jared Clayton. (berkboy@bcn.net or 229-0363); Steering Committee. Kathy Orlando (wildkato@aol.com or 229-8789); Consultant Ted Brovitz (tbrovitz@dufresne-henry.com or (617) 426-9716). Check the Master Plan web site for the latest: www.dufresne-henry.com/Sheffield.

MASTER PLAN'S NEXT PHASE

The Economic Development and Housing subcommittees are completing their preliminary recommendations, and the Facilities, Services and Transportation and the Open Space, Recreation and Land Use subcommittees will be following suit over the next two months. Consultant Ted Brovitz and the Steering Committee will be synthesizing the individual sections into a unified vision and draft plan for the community to review.

"The Steering Committee wants to thank everyone who has contributed to the initial draft reports and the preliminary recommendations," said Kathy Orlando, chair of the Steering Committee. "We hope that even more community members will join in as we start the process of in-depth public review of the initial recommendations." During the process, public comment will be invited on the drafts, and additional ideas and observations will be welcomed. The new round of public input is planned for January and February 2004. Watch for announcements of meetings and discussion groups.

5TH

Annual Festival of Trees

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Sheffield Historical Society



HOW TO PUT UP A LEGAL SIGN IN SHEFFIELD

Sheffield, like most communities, regulates the size, number and location of signs put up within its borders. Such regulations are intended to limit clutter and visual intrusion on the vistas of a rural New England village, while still meeting the needs of businesses, farmers' markets, houses of worship, and historical sites to make their presence and events known to the public. There are safety concerns as well, as signs can distract drivers or obscure hazards.

Lately, some of those efforts to inform the public have been getting out of hand. "People should check to see if their signs are legal before putting them up," says Jim Collingwood, chair of the Sheffield Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). "And we should require that any new illegal signs are removed or replaced."

Though Sheffield has regulated signs for more than 25 years, the "sign bylaw" became effective in essentially its current form in 1994. Copies of the sign bylaw, Article 11, are available at Town Hall. The bylaw is short and fairly straightforward and not very restrictive compared with many communities' sign ordinances.

Enforcement is up to the Town building inspector. Under the provisions of the bylaw, anyone constructing a sign without a permit can be ordered to remove it or, if it is non-conforming, to bring it into

conformity. Fines of up to \$300 for each day the violation continues can also be imposed.

Here's a guide to what is and isn't legal in Sheffield:

Requirements for all signs

No sign may be more than 10 feet high. Signs must be kept clean and neat and in good repair and safe condition. Signs can't interfere with visibility of traffic signs or pose a safety hazard to drivers or pedestrians. They may not have moving, flashing or animated lights, visible moving parts or other features more suitable to Times Square than the Village Green.

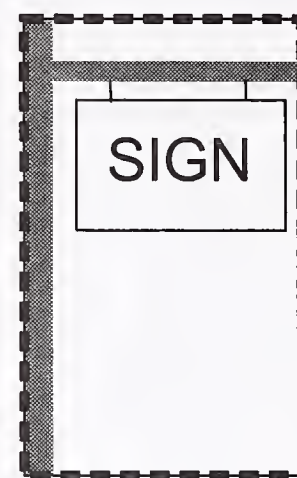
"Off-site" signs are prohibited, meaning that no sign may be placed on a piece of property unless its message has something to do with that property. For example, a "House for Sale" sign can only be put up on the property that is for sale, and a business may not install a sign advertising that business except on the property where the business is conducted.

Maximum square footage for signs is specified for various kinds of signs. As the illustration above shows, the size is the "outermost rectangular perimeter -- including the support structure."

Rules for noncommercial signs

People installing signs that are

**A SIGN MAY BE BIGGER
THAN YOU THINK!**



Because size and placement affect the intrusiveness of a sign, Sheffield's zoning rules measure the square footage not of the signboard but of the area indicated by the dotted line.

"customarily associated with residential use"—for instance, signs indicating the street numbers and names of residents, and no trespassing, no hunting and beware of the dog signs—don't have to worry about sign regulations so long as the signs are installed on the residential property to which they relate and are not more than 4 square feet in area. Other signs with little regulation other than size include:

- Traffic, directional and other official signs.
- Bulletin boards and directional and informational signs erected by churches and other houses of worship (12 sq. ft. maximum).
- Temporary, non-illuminated political signs displayed during elec-

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tion campaigns (4 sq. ft. maximum).

- Signs announcing the presence of a fraternal, civic, religious or service organizations or clubs and the time and place of their regular meetings (4 sq. ft. maximum).

- Signs announcing special events such as fairs, shows and fund drives put up by governmental bodies or nonprofit organizations or clubs (12 sq. ft. maximum). Such signs must be removed within seven days after the close of the event. If an organization wants to put up such a sign on the Village Green or other town property, it must obtain the prior approval of the Board of Selectmen.

Rules for special signs

Some other types of signs also have little restriction apart from size:

- When property is for sale or lease, a single, temporary, non-illuminated sign is allowed on the lot or structures on that lot (5 sq. ft. maximum). Contractors may erect a similar sign when undertaking renovations or repairs.

- Historic buildings may have a non-illuminated marker (2 sq ft maximum) on the building or lot.

- Freestanding signs can direct traffic to entrances or exits from a building or parking area provided that the sign doesn't exceed 2 square feet or is no higher than 5 feet above the ground or closer than 10 feet from the street lot line. The number of such signs must be limited to the minimum necessary to give clear directions.

Rules for commercial signs

As you would expect, signs advertising businesses are the most noticeable type of sign in Sheffield. Most of them are on Route 7. Rules for these signs are more complex, with procedures spelled out for obtaining variances and appealing decisions.

A business in commercial districts is permitted to have one sign not exceeding 20 square feet and a secondary sign not exceeding 8 square feet. In rural districts, the maximum is 12 square feet for the primary sign and 4 square feet for the secondary sign. A sign advertising a business must be removed if the business has shut down.

Before a commercial sign is installed, a building permit must be issued by the town building inspector. If the proposed sign doesn't meet the regulations, he will suggest changes that will allow it to do so or, in appropriate cases, suggest an application for a special permit or a variance.

The Planning Board may issue a special permit to a business for more or larger signs, up to 50 percent larger than the usual maximum, to a combined area of 50 square feet maximum. To do this, the Board must make a series of six "findings" that address a number of considerations, including that the sign is "consistent with" and "restrained and harmonious with" its surroundings. In addition, the Zoning Board of Appeals has a limited power to grant sign variances.

Special permits and variances give the bylaw flexibility to meet the needs of Sheffield businesses, many of which believe that success depends heavily on their ability to attract drive-by customers.

Non-conforming signs

Many signs in Sheffield, especially along Route 7, do not conform to the sign bylaw, some legally and others not. Some of these have received special permits or variances. Other legal reasons for nonconformance include:

Billboards. These are controlled by state statute. The Outdoor Advertising Board, the state regulatory agency for billboards, issues annual licenses and permits to outdoor advertising companies. Some southern Berkshire communities have tried to get the board's cooperation in removing billboards or regulating them more closely, without much success.

"Grandfathered" signs. Signs erected prior to the effective date of the zoning bylaw or the particular provision of the bylaw with which they do not conform are allowed because they are "grandfathered." So are many signs that replace signs that predated the effective date (though some changes to a grandfathered sign require a special permit from the ZBA). Examples of grandfathered signs are those for Bradfords Auction Gallery, the Pine Tree restaurant, and Lane Construction.

—Peter Rowntree

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organizations & BUSINESSES

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Leagion Hall on Route 7.

KIWANIS NEWS

Kiwanis members were happy to assist with the Sheffield Celebration in September. We supplied parking attendants and trash barrels and had an excellent day at the refreshment trailer. The Ashley Falls Fair on the Green was sorely missed!

Our roadside clean-up crew on Oct. 16 was the last for this season. Members will also be cleaning up the "frosted" flowers and plants on the village green as the season ends. We continue taking our turn at the Breaking Bread soup kitchen at St. Peter's Center in Gt. Barrington, serving last on Oct. 30. Plans are in the works for a combined group effort on the upcoming holidays.

The club sent \$300 to aid St. George's Prep School in Bermuda, which was hard hit by Hurricane Fabian. Bermuda is ungeographically part of the New England District of Kiwanis.

Our thanks go to community members who supported our 2nd Annual Art Auction at the American Legion hall on Columbus Day. We are also grateful to the hundreds of friends who contributed to the Oct. 31 Halloween Radiothon on Station WSBS.

The Sheffield Kiwanis Installation/Awards dinner-dance was postponed. We celebrated on Saturday, Nov.

1, at the Egremont Country Club. In addition to inaugurating new officers and board members, three former high school Key Clubbers, were accepted as our newest Kiwanians: Heidi Barg, Crystal Dumont, and Chrissy Smith were also accepted. The chief honors presented at the annual ceremony are Citizen of the Year and Kiwanian of the Year.

Beginning on Sat. and Sun., Nov. 8 and 9, and continuing for two weekends, we host our annual Bowling Tournament at the Cove Lanes in Gt. Barrington.

For the holidays, Kiwanis donates goods and money to local food pantries and buys gifts for kids in the "Adopt a Family" program.

—Richard L. Goodwin

Kiwanis meets, Tuesdays, 6:30pm at Limey's Restaurant.

ART LEAGUE HOLIDAY SHOW

The Sheffield Art League is sponsoring a holiday art show, "Intimate Treasures," at the Historical Society's Old Stone Store, opening Dec. 3 and running to Jan. 2. The show will be open daily from 11am to 4pm, except Dec. 24 and 25 and Dec. 31 and Jan 1. A reception on Sat., Dec. 6, from 1:30 to 4pm is open to all.

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THE SHEFFIELD SPORTING CLUB: OVER 50 YEARS OLD AND GOING STRONG

Its sign is faded and its existence isn't very well known, but for the last 20 years the Sheffield Gun Club has made its home on 68 acres off Lime Kiln Rd. Now known as The Sheffield Sporting Club, this private group was first organized in 1945, making it one of the oldest sporting clubs in the county. Membership is open to anyone who enjoys the challenge of marksmanship and the camaraderie of others who share their enthusiasm for shooting.

The club offers a variety of shooting challenges. For shotguns, there are skeet and trap. Clay "pigeons" are mechanically launched into the air. Trap pigeons come in different directions from one location, and the shooters fire at pigeons on a rotating basis for a total of 25 shots per round. Skeet pigeons are lofted from two points, a "high house"

on one side of the range and a "low house" on the other. Modern skeet equipment launches oscillating targets to give them an element of unpredictability and difficulty. Again, shooters rotate through the course for 25 shots per round.

The club also has pistol and rifle ranges and even an archery range. On the first and third Sunday of every month, the club has "5 Stand Trap," giving the shooter the extra challenge of shooting at clay pigeons from five different angles.

In addition to the regularly scheduled shoots, the club organizes special events such as the recent "Iron Man Shoot," whose winners had to have the highest scores in three different events. Throughout the summer, members compete with other sporting clubs in the county. Many local police departments, including the Sheffield and Great Barrington Police Departments, use the club's range for their officers to meet their periodic

gun qualifications.

Safety has always been a high priority at the club. A range officer must be present when there is any type of shooting, and eye and ear protection are requirements for all shooters. Tom Macy, who is the club's longest-standing member and one of its current directors, is

extremely proud of the club's safety record. Since its inception, Macy stated, there has never been an accident of any kind at the club. Members are always willing to help others master shooting techniques, and newer members are introduced to the ranges and instructed on safety and range procedures. Shooters who want more formal instruction can meet on Thursdays with an instructor for private skeet lessons. The clubhouse and shooting ranges are surrounded by woods, which act as a barrier

not only for sound, but for safety as well.

Many of the members are weekenders, and they find the club an excellent way of meeting people with whom they have a common interest. The club's by-laws limit membership to 125 people and new applicants can expect at least a year's wait before they can join. However, non-members can use the club on Sundays for a fee of \$3.50 per round. Members, who pay \$60 per year, have a fee of \$2.50 per round. In the past, several women were members on their own right, but currently only a few wives of members shoot on a regular basis. The club encourages women who are interested in shooting to apply for membership.

Only about 30 or 40 percent of the membership shoots regularly. But those members who do use the club frequently take pleasure in being outdoors, sharpening their skills, and competing against others who also enjoy the sport of shooting.

—Judith Schumer



Taking aim at clay "pigeons" helps hone members' skills.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS

Holiday Showcase. This year's showcase, in the Old Stone Store on the Green in Sheffield for four weekends in November, will feature old-time window store displays by artist David Walker-Price. Decorated trees that will be auctioned at the Festival of Trees at the end of the month will be on view.

Decorated miniature trees can be purchased, along with this year's hand-painted ornament of a Sheffield landmark, the Old Parish Church. A limited number of ornaments from past years are also available. New this year are classic holiday stockings made by local residents and holiday jewelry.

Raffles will be held for several items, including a candy replica of Old Parish Church, a freshly cut Christmas tree, and a locally created quilted wall hanging. Holiday wreaths may be ordered for delivery to your home in Ashley Falls or Sheffield.

The Showcase is open Sat., Nov. 1, 10am to 3pm, and Sat., Nov. 8, 15, and 22, 10am to 2pm. On Sundays, November 2, 9, 16 and 23, it will be open 11am to 3pm. For more information, call the Sheffield Historical Society at 413-229-2694.

"Arlo, Alice and the Anglicans." Laura Lee will tell the story of the historic building in Housatonic that began as a colonial-era Anglican church and is now the Guthrie Center, at 7:30pm, Fri., Nov. 14. The mill village of Van Deusenville kept the church going strong into the 19th century as the area grew with its iron furnace business, but decline set in and by 1963 the church was deconsecrated. Alice and Ray Brock turned it into a home and a place for the hippie generation to meet. Arlo Guthrie made the building famous in his song; it was also featured in the 1969 film "Alice's Restaurant." In the 1990s, the building became the Guthrie Center. Come and hear how all of these forces intertwined in the history of the structure, the town,



Trees and decorations range from traditional to whimsical at the Historical Society's annual Festival of Trees silent auction.

and the counterculture. Lee, an author and a past newspaper reporter, has performed as an actor, a comic, and a mime. Free. Fellowship Room of Old Parish Church, Sheffield.

Festival of Trees. The 5th Annual Festival of Trees, a favorite event in Sheffield's celebration of the holidays, will be held Fri., Nov. 28, 4 to 6pm, and Sat., Nov. 29, 10am to 3pm in the Old Parish Church Fellowship Halls, Sheffield Village Green, Route 7. Local residents have decorated miniature trees and menorahs for a silent auction to be held on Saturday from 10 to 3. There will also be boxwood trees, wreaths-to-order and raffles of hand-made quilts and a candy centerpiece of Old Parish Church, as well as the stockings, jewelry, and ornaments also for sale at the Holiday Showcase. A hearty country lunch will be available for \$5.

Opening Reception for "Intimate Treasures." The reception for the Sheffield Art League December exhibition at the Old Stone Store will be 1:30 to 4pm Sat., Dec. 6. See announcement on page 22.

Holiday Music with the Mt. Everett Madrigal Group. Nancy Loder will direct the student ensemble at 7:30pm, Fri., Dec. 12. Most of the selections will be sung a cappella. The singers are from grades 9 through 12 and they love to sing Renaissance music. Free. Fellowship Room of Old Parish Church, Sheffield.

The Sheffield Historical Society is located on Route 7 in the center of Sheffield. Tours of the Dan Raymond House are available Thursday through Saturday 11am to 4pm. The new exhibition in the Dan Raymond house is "Sheffield's Chapeaus: Hats from A Bygone Era." The Mark Dewey Research Center is open Monday and Friday 1:30 to 4pm and by appointment. For further information on Society programs, contact the Sheffield Historical Society, 159-161 Main Street, P.O. Box 747, Sheffield, MA 01257, 413-229-2694 or email shs@sheffieldhistory.org.



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FAMILY NETWORK PROGRAMS

The Southern Berkshire Family Network has many activities planned for November and December for families with children aged birth-5 years.

Olympia Casivant leads a parent child playgroup on Thursdays from 9:30-11:30am at the Grace Bible Church in Ashley Falls.

A Parents Helping Parents discussion group is held every Wednesday evening at 6 with child care available. Parents are asked to call (413) 274-6046 to register and call the Family Center if you will need child care.

Parents with infants are invited to join the parent-infant drop in on Mondays and Fridays from 12:30-2pm at the Family Center.

The Family Network, in conjunction with Community Access to the Arts and Berkshire South Community Center, is sponsoring Healthy Arts, a free arts program and swim once each month at Berkshire Community Center in Gt. Barrington. "Juggling, Jesting and Other Foolery with Roger the Jester" will be held Nov. 8. at 10:30am. "Serenading with Vicky True" will take place on Dec. 6, also at 10:30. Call Community Access to the Arts at 528-5485 to register. The program was funded by Berkshire United Way.

Parents are welcome to call the Family Center at 528-0721 or stop by 940 South Main Street, Great Barrington, for a complete schedule of our events. The Family Center will be closed Nov. 27 and 28, and Dec. 25 and 26.

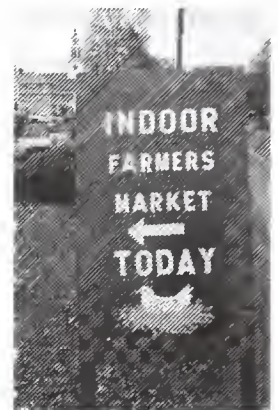
GUIDED NATURE WALK

Saturday, Nov. 8 from 10 to noon, explore private conservation land with the Sheffield Land Trust and guide Tim Abbott from The Nature Conservancy. Spend the morning walking in the woods and along Schenob Brook on the Elsbach conservation restriction off Salisbury Road. It will be an easy family-friendly walk and is free to the public. Call the land trust at 229-0234 for details.

OUTDOOR MARKET INSIDE

Outdoor farmers' markets in the Berkshires have been a great success during warm weather as places to meet your friends and neighbors, do your shopping for week-end goodies, and support your local farmers, bakers, and other vendors. To continue that tradition in the colder weather, the Sheffield Friendly Union and the Sheffield Association founded the "Saturday Market." The Market runs through Dec. 20, every Saturday morning in Dewey Memorial Hall on the Green in Sheffield, from 9am to 1pm.

Many of your favorite vendors from the Sheffield and Gt. Barrington farmers' markets will be there, selling cakes, pies, soup, cheese, and other edible goodies, along with flowers, soap, dog treats, and other wares. Come have coffee or tea and a sweet, read the morning paper at a cafe table, and say hello to your friends.



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August

- 7 Pat V. Riera & Anthony D'Amico to Custom Classics, LLC, property at 142 Main St., \$100,000.
- 13 Kathleen M. Chrisman to Eric L. Johnson, property at 1964 Barnum St., \$300,000.
- 15 David M. & Diane D. Elliott to Anthony L. & Carol Valenti, property at Cross Rd., \$225,000.
- 15 Kenneth Safian to Lee H. Perlman & Linda Riefbeng, property at 689 Home Rd., \$650,000.
- 15 Oliver C. & Sharon L. Palma to Edwin & Barbara Carr, property at 954 Boardman St., \$324,500.
- 18 Russell J. O'Connor Jr. to Christopher A. & Diana W. Williams, property at Clayton Rd., \$24,000.
- 28 Robert & Andrea Egert to William A. & Suzanne Grant, property at 17 Thyme Lane, \$330,000.
- 29 Barbara Zdziarski to Marilyn J. Brooks, property at 119 Park Lane, \$260,000.
- 29 Patricia B. Murtagh to Dena Bancroft, property at 7 Plymouth Lane, \$267,000.
- 29 Frederick J. & Margaret J. Baxter to Doris C. Floyd, property at 349 South Main St., \$235,000.

September

- 2 Thomas H. & Beverly A. Kradel to Kradel Family LLC, property at East Stahl Rd., no consideration.
- 5 Ronald K. & Sara A. VanDeusen to Mark Bachetti

Real-estate transfers

- property at Root Lane, \$40,000.
- 5 James L. Phillips to James L. & Faith H. Phillips, property at 412 Berkshire School Rd., \$1.
- 8 Michael Shiels & Edward Ustico to Christine B. Ludwiczewski & Greig R. Siedor, property at Hickey Hill Rd., \$250,000.
- 12 Daniel Shmulsky to Mildred Shmulsky, property at Woodedge Lane, \$1.
- 15 Stephen K. Ullrich to Richard E. Sr. & Wendy L. Hill, property at South Main St., \$39,000.
- 22 Elizabeth L. & Laurie J. Ankersen to Lloyd H. & Lisa S. Busch, property at 257 Clayton Rd., \$55,000.
- 22 Susan B. Levin to Peter H. Levin, property at 229 Silver St., transfer.
- 26 Donna L. Kelly & Robin Markey, Trustees of the Beverly Nominee Trust, to Milt & Carla A. Horowitz, property at 356 Miller Ave., \$270,000.
- 29 Mildred A. Shmulsky to Jason T. & Jennifer M. Smith, property at Woodedge Lane, \$39,500.
- 30 Joseph D. Smedley to Dana D. Cummings, property at 153 Bow Wow Rd., \$225,000.

October

- 1 Vincent P. & Allison L. Giracca to Stephen Kessler, property at Home Road, \$515,000.



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SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

See also ongoing listings at right

November

- 11 VETERAN'S DAY, Center closed
- *18 Trip to JFK Library Museum and Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston (details on p.11)
- 19 COA Board Meeting
- 20 Lunch at Geer Village & Tour, 11:30am. Sue Kaufman: on cardiovascular matters and Sandy French: physical fitness
- 27 THANKSGIVING - Center closed
- 28 Day after Thanksgiving - Center closed, but Meals on Wheels will be delivered

December

- *4 Hearing Clinic, 1pm
- 22-26 Center closed, but Meals on Wheels will be delivered M/T/W & F

calendar PAGE

Page numbers given after event if written up in this issue.
CPAC = Consolati Performing Arts Center, Mt. Everett.

November

- 7 Author's Reading, Brett Duval Fromson, Library, 7pm (p18)
- 8 Guided Nature Walk, 999 Salisbury Rd, 10-noon, (p 25)
- 8 Book Signing Party, Library, 10am-2pm (p18)
- 8, 15, 22, Holiday Showcase. Old Stone Store, Village Green, Displays, gifts, mini trees, hand-painted ornaments, raffles, 10am-2pm (p24)
- 8,9,15,16,22,23 Kiwanis Bowling Tournament, Cove Lanes(p22)
- 9,16,23, Holiday Showcase. (see above) 11am-3pm (p24)
- 9 Pot Luck Supper, Old Parish Church, 6:30pm (p7)
- 11 VETERAN'S DAY
- 12 Housatonic River Public Meeting, Berkshire South, 7-9pm (p11)
- 14 Arlo, Alice & the Anglicans, Old Parish Church, 7:30pm (p24)
- 14 Ashley Falls Village Improvement Society Annual Meeting, 7pm
- 15 Author's Reading, Simon Winchester, Library, 2pm (p18)
- 20 Housatonic River Restoration Public Meeting, Hinsdale Town Hall, 7-9pm (p11)
- 22 Christmas Bazaar, Our Lady of the Valley, 9:30am-noon (p7)
- 22 Author's Reading, Loet Velmans, Library, 2pm (p18)
- 27 THANKSGIVING
- 28 Festival of Trees, Old Parish Church, Village Green, Early buying: silent auction of decorated mini trees, boxwood trees, wreaths, stockings, holiday jewelry and raffles, 4-6pm (p24)
- 29 Festival of Trees, see above, 10am-3pm (p24)

December

- 3 Intimate Treasures Art Show, Old Stone Store, 11am-4pm (p22)
- 6 Ashley Falls Tree Lighting & carols, on the Green, 5pm (p6)
- 6 Art Show reception, Old Stone Store, 1:30-4pm (p22)
- 6 Sheffield Tree Lighting & carols, on the Green, 6pm (p6)
- 9 Grade 5-8 Holiday Concert, CPAC, 7pm (p7)
- 12 Holiday Madrigals, Old Parish Church, 7:30pm (p24)
- 18 Middle, High School & Jazz Band Holiday Concert, CPAC, 7pm (p7)
- 19 HANUKKAH (starts at sundown)
- 20 Children's Christmas Pageant, Christ Church, 4pm (p7)
- 21 Children's Christmas Pageant, Christ Church, 10am (p7)
- 25 CHRISTMAS

ONGOING CALENDAR ITEMS

(Meetings or events that occur on a less than weekly basis are noted by number - i.e. "1st", "3rd" indicates meetings the first and third times that day occurs in the month.

* indicates appointment needed.

Mondays:

Food Assistance Program, Old Parish Church, 9-10:30am (pTK)

Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 7pm, 1st, 3rd, 4th

Board of Health, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd

Tuesdays:

Council on Aging, Dewey Hall, 9am, 3rd

Physical Fitness Class, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9am

Children's Story Hour, Library, 10am

Building Inspector, Town Hall, 6pm - 8:30pm

Ashley Falls Historic District Commission, Town Hall, 6:30pm, 2nd

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Support Group, Fairview Hospital Library, 6:30pm, 4th

Planning Board, Town Hall, 7pm, 1st, 3rd

Industrial Development Commission, Town Hall, 7:30pm, last

Kiwanis Club, Limey's Restaurant, 6:30pm

Thursdays:

Building Inspector, Town Hall, 7am - 1pm

Kid's Club, Old Parish Church, 9am-12pm

Parent-Child Playgroup, Grace Bible Church, 9:30-11:30

*Blood Pressure Clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9am-12pm, 2nd

Physical Fitness Class, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9am

Conservation Commission, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd, 4th

Saturdays:

Saturday Market, Dewey Hall, 9am-1pm (p.TK)

Contra Dancing, Sheffield Grange, Rte 7, 8:30pm, 4th

January

1 NEW YEARS DAY

SEE ALSO:

Master Plan, p. 19 ♦ Churches & Services, p.6 ♦
Family Network, p. 25 ♦ Kiwanis, p. 22 ♦ Historical Society, p.24 ♦ Senior Center, p. 26

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